Barbara Shelly: Why the University of Missouri is in big trouble, and why it will survive

Can we all calm down about the University of Missouri system?

Governance structure needs repair

Lawmakers should stop using universities as political pinatas

BY BARBARA SHELLY
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In far-flung classrooms, labs and offices around Missouri, the essential work of a public university system hums on.

Researchers in Columbia just received a patent related to nuclear medicine in the treatment of cancer. Enthusiasm remains high for a downtown campus for the University of Missouri-Kansas City’s Conservatory of Music and Dance. A new generation of engineers trains at Missouri Science & Technology and dozens of students on the St. Louis and Kansas City campuses strive to become the first in their families to earn college degrees.

This backdrop is helpful as we consider what’s happening in the University of Missouri system’s upper reaches. The governing structure is in a rough patch, to be sure. But an entire system shouldn’t be defined by ex-president Tim Wolfe’s grievances, or by the infamous video of an enraged assistant communications professor, Melissa Click.

That’s not to minimize the University of Missouri system’s precarious situation with the state General Assembly. Walk the hallways of the Capitol in Jefferson
City these days and it’s difficult to find a legislator who isn’t angry about what’s been going on.

Some lawmakers are furious that Wolfe resigned in November in response to protests by black students. Others think he didn’t leave soon enough. Still more Republicans are livid that Wolfe took former MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin out with him.

Republican lawmakers have vowed to punish MU because its medical center granted low-level admitting privileges to a physician who performed non-surgical abortions at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia. Many Democrats are incensed because Loftin caved in to pressure from Republicans and revoked the doctor’s credentials.

Lawmakers from both parties are questioning the Board of Curators’ decision to pay $10,000 a month to lobbyist Andy Blunt, son of U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, for crisis management intervention with the legislature. His salary is in addition to at least $500,000 that the university system pays to other lobbyists and government affairs specialists.

Perhaps most polarizing is the furor surrounding Click, the assistant professor who was captured on video shouting for “some muscle” to help her stop a student journalist from recording events in a public space.

Click’s unquestionably brutish actions turned her, in the eyes of many conservative lawmakers, into everything that is wrong with academia.

She sided with indulged students who thought they were entitled to a “safe space” in the middle of Mizzou’s quad. She threatened a student photographer. Then it became known that her media research includes work on popular culture phenomena like Lady Gaga, the “Twilight” series and “50 Shades of Grey.”

Nearly 120 Republican legislators signed a letter calling on MU interim Chancellor Hank Foley to fire Click. One lawmaker even filed a bill requiring mandatory free speech courses at all of the state’s public colleges and universities.

On Wednesday the Board of Curators yielded to the political pressure and voted to suspend Click. In doing so, they badly undercut Foley, who earlier this week
said the university had “good strong processes” in place to evaluate Click’s future with MU and would not be rushed.

The curators’ vote took place as people around Missouri were busy digesting a “confidential” email that Wolfe had sent to about 100 supporters, and which of course circulated like an airborne virus. He laid out a myriad of grievances about the way he was treated before and after his resignation and suggested the university system was in danger of collapse unless the curators gave him a generous severance package and freed him up to play a savior role from the outside.

Can I suggest that we all calm down a bit?

The General Assembly is not going to defund the University of Missouri system to the tune of more than half a billion dollars, as Wolfe warned in his email. Legislators might talk about it, but they’ll quickly find out how many loyal alumni live in their districts.

And the university system has not become so much of a pariah that no competent person will want to be the system president, something else Wolfe predicted.

The governance structure does need repair. Gov. Jay Nixon must move quickly to replace the two curators who resigned since the upheaval began in November. The right leaders are needed to conduct a transparent search for a system president with the ability to connect with constituencies as diverse as minority students and conservative state legislators.

People need to get their roles straight. Curators have no business getting involved in campus situations or personnel matters. By suspending Click to appease legislators, they courted faculty unrest and scrutiny from groups like the American Association of University Professors.

But the next president must be more engaged than Wolfe was. His refusal to meet with black students on the Columbia campus became his undoing.

The legislature has to stop using the university system as a political piñata. Railing about liberal faculty and spoiled students might resonate with some constituents, but it reduces a complex educational system to a few inflammatory talking points.
Lawmakers have a right to determine that the taxpayers’ dollars they allocate to the university system are well spent. But that right stops short of interfering with who gets privileges at university medical facilities, what courses are offered on campuses and the job status of any professor.

Legislators understand, as do most Missourians, the need for a strong university system. The University of Missouri’s four campuses are economic engines, incubators of culture and ideas and a destination for bright young people in Missouri and beyond.

Those are assets you want to build up, not tear down.

Former MU President Wolfe wanted soft landing, didn't get it

When University of Missouri system President Timothy M. Wolfe stepped down Nov. 9 amid major unrest on the Columbia campus, some were surprised when he left without a severance package.

Twice that day reporters asked him if he was negotiating a deal, and twice he answered no.

And yet on Wednesday — nearly three months after his departure — it became clear that Wolfe did not intend to leave empty-handed.

The proof is in a fiery letter Wolfe emailed to influential university supporters. In the letter, he implores them to help him secure a severance deal that he says the university has since denied him.

So what changed?

The answer isn’t entirely clear. A number of university officials are reluctant to talk about it, while others say they can’t discuss it because of confidentiality rules.

But on Thursday some of the details came to light.

First, university officials have confirmed that on the day Wolfe resigned, the UM Board of Curators took no action with regards to his severance. In other words, he walked away without a deal.
University spokesman John Fougere confirmed that Wolfe didn’t sign anything on his way out and nothing was promised to him.

But the very next day, according to a university official, then-board chairman Donald L. Cupps reached out to Wolfe about a possible “post-resignation arrangement.”

Since then, talks between the two sides have broken down.

Presumably, that’s what prompted Wolfe to write his scorched-earth letter, in which he blames other administrators, members of the football team and board members for the end of his career as president.

Board member David L. Steelman said Thursday that although he didn’t agree with Wolfe’s decision to resign, he supported working out some sort of settlement.

“I thought we ought to do something reasonable for him,” Steelman said. “I think we were going beyond what was contractually required, then things fell apart.”

Wolfe’s contract called for him to be paid an annual base salary of $459,000 plus a car and a $2,400-per-month housing allowance.

If he would have continued as president through the end of his contract on June 30, 2018, Wolfe would have been able to collect more than $150,000 as part of “longevity-based compensation.”

At the time he left, he’d accumulated nearly $70,000 in that fund. It’s unclear whether he had also accumulated performance pay.

The university won’t say how much of a severance has been offered to Wolfe by the Board of Curators, saying those negotiations are a private personnel matter.

Wolfe’s letter doesn’t offer a figure either, but it does complain about the sum.

“The amount the board has put on the table for me is equivalent to what I would have been paid if they had terminated without cause,” Wolfe wrote in his letter. “In addition they want me to agree to a gag order where I will not disparage the board or anybody else concerning events leading up to my resignation.”

Beyond money, it’s clear from the letter that Wolfe envisioned some kind of role with the university going forward.

“Since my resignation over two months ago, I have been trying to reach an agreement with the board as to what my role might be,” he writes before adding, “I seriously wanted to help in some way and had come up with many proposals.”
Wolfe could not be reached for comment.

In his letter he writes that former Columbia campus Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and former football coach Gary Pinkel both received better treatment from the board.

Pinkel retired as football coach after the 2015 season and later agreed to a three-year contract worth nearly $1 million to serve as a fundraiser and ambassador for the athletics department on the Columbia campus.

Loftin was stripped of his title as chancellor the same day Wolfe resigned. The board assigned Loftin the new role of director of research facility development and agreed to pay him just shy of $350,000 a year for five years.

“The board’s last offer is neither fair nor consistent with Loftin and Pinkel’s treatment and is embarrassing in light of which leader did the right thing to help the university and which leader was only looking out for themselves,” Wolfe wrote.

Wolfe resigned as the Columbia campus became the focus of national attention following a series of racist incidents on campus.

Student activists directed their anger at Wolfe over his perceived indifference to their concerns.

He took heavy criticism for refusing to engage with student demonstrators who blocked the car he was riding in during a homecoming parade.

Later, Wolfe was captured on video outside a fundraiser, where he appeared to suggest that black students had adopted a victim’s mentality.

The uproar reached a climax on Nov. 7 when members of the Mizzou football team threatened to skip all football-related activities until Wolfe stepped down.

He resigned two days later.

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Messenger: Bitter shakedown letter damages university Wolfe says he loves**

8 hours ago • By Tony Messenger
Never get between Tim Wolfe and his money.

That’s the underlying theme of two letters the former president of the University of Missouri system wrote, almost exactly a year apart, to a group of 100 of the university’s top donors.

Over the past couple of days, you’ve likely read about the second letter. It’s the one in which the former president burns every bridge that once connected him to his alma mater, blaming everybody for his resignation but himself, turning what had been seen by many as a gracious, unselfish act into a crass decision to get out of harm’s way, as long as he got some cash on the way out the door.

In this letter to the Missouri 100, emailed from Wolfe’s Gmail account on Jan. 19 and labeled “CONFIDENTIAL,” the former president left tire tracks all over the backs of several people.

He blamed former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin for many of his problems, including the Concerned Student 1950 protest group directing its ire at Wolfe. He blamed former MU football coach Gary Pinkel for “throwing gasoline on a small fire” when the football team promised its own strike until graduate student Jonathan Butler ended his hunger strike. He suggested the university’s diversity problems could be pinned on interim President Michael Middleton. He said Middleton, an African-American, should have found a way to head off Butler’s protest. He accused the curators and state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, of first-degree meddling.

Then he made his money pitch.

“The Board’s last offer is neither fair nor consistent with Loftin and Pinkel’s treatment and is embarrassing in light of which leader did the right thing to help the university and which leader was only looking out for themselves,” Wolfe wrote. “My call to action for each of you is to pick up the phone, or at a minimum send an email, to the board members below and express your concern over the current situation and tell them to resolve my contract negotiation so that I can continue to play a significant positive role in the future.”

In other words: Show me the money.

That was also the underlying theme of a letter Wolfe wrote to the Missouri 100 group a year ago, in which the person with bus tracks on his back was none other than yours truly. The letter followed an editorial I had written (I was editorial page editor at the time), in which Wolfe criticized state lawmakers for not doing enough to fund education at all levels. He said lawmakers were too busy listening to “one man” who thinks the path to prosperity is paved by tax cuts. That “one man” was clearly a reference to GOP mega-donor Rex Sinquefield, a point I made in the editorial.
What I didn’t know at the time, but Wolfe clearly did, is that Rex and his wife, Jeanne, were considering a $10 million donation to the university’s proposed new School of Music building.

After the editorial ran, he sent a letter to the Missouri 100. “Before you read the editorial,” he wrote, “I want to take a moment to put it into context.”

While he defended the larger points the editorial made, he added, “the criticisms of the Governor, one of our very generous Missouri 100 members — Jeanne Sinquefield — and our legislators, were not mine but those of the Post.”

I lost some respect for Wolfe that day. Here he was, a president who was doing what was needed — challenging our state’s leaders to get behind a tax increase for education — and as soon as a donor and a couple of politicians got a little upset with him, he curled up in the fetal position and sought a scapegoat.

Fact is, Wolfe knew exactly who he was talking about that day. There was no question.

But he lacked the integrity to stand by his very strong words.

Two months later, the Sinquefields made the $10 million pledge to the School of Music public. It’s the largest arts gift the university has received.

There was a time when the University of Missouri president was among the most powerful positions in state government, when lawmakers and governors sought the president’s favor and approval, not the other way around. There are many reasons that is no longer the case, term limits among them, but Wolfe’s duplicity is surely a symptom of the declining power and prestige of the office.

I felt badly for Wolfe when he resigned last fall. He seemed to me to be the wrong target, whose failure to recognize the gravity of the protests sped up his demise.

Now?

I’m not so sure he didn’t get just what he deserved.

Nothing embodies white privilege more than a rich, white guy asking other rich, white guys to help shake down the state’s taxpayers so he can leave with a few parting gifts.

And don’t forget to blame the black guy on the way out.
Editorial: Former University of Missouri president does himself no favors

Timothy M. Wolfe, former University of Missouri System president, may have legitimate complaints about how his tenure at the university ended, but a vitriolic message to friends and donors won’t help heal the rupture.

In fact, the rambling Jan. 19 email message, reported by the Post-Dispatch’s Koran Addo on Wednesday, reads as an unprofessional and heavy-handed attempt to blame everyone but himself.

Mr. Wolfe ripped current university leaders and cast himself as a scapegoat who fell on his sword by resigning in November in order to help the university avoid a Ferguson-like event on campus.

He singles out R. Bowen Loftin, the former chancellor of the Columbia campus whom he hired, as particularly at fault for the escalation of racial tension at the university, among other failures. Michael Middleton, the university interim president, gets blame for allegedly having had a “long-term” relationship with the student who went on a hunger strike calling for Mr. Wolfe’s resignation.

Mr. Wolfe makes much ado about having walked away from his job without a severance package. He asks recipients at the letter’s conclusion to contact university board members to support him in negotiating severance — as if to suggest that this is really all about money.

The conditions of his departure clearly left Mr. Wolfe with a sour taste, and he may well deserve some financial consideration for having served the university for four years. But leveling blame at everyone else, with no effort at self-criticism, lends a pathetic air to his appeal.

Missourians should be concerned about Mr. Wolfe’s contentions regarding state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia. Mr. Wolfe contends the senator pressured him to stifle a university law professor’s election bid for public office by rejecting his request for an unpaid leave of absence and threatening his tenure. Mr. Schaefer says the allegation is false.

The senator also disputes Mr. Wolfe’s accusation that he worked with Mr. Loftin to shape his testimony before a committee Mr. Schaefer chaired about the university’s relationship with Planned Parenthood. The committee worked to eliminate ties between the university’s medical center and Planned Parenthood’s Columbia clinic, where nonsurgical abortions were performed.

The university needs to remain an independent bastion of higher learning, not the playground of political meddlers. Even though they shouldn’t, legislators often threaten to use university funding as
a weapon to achieve their political goals. A top job of any university leader, including the president, is to hold them at bay.

Mr. Wolfe’s letter fails to acknowledge his role in the many problems and tensions that led to his resignation. He does not talk about his response to a student’s question about white privilege that further incited students, or about how he sat in his car instead of engaging students during a protest march, or his mishandling of Mr. Loftin.

His failures of leadership must factor in any severance negotiation. The university’s reputation was damaged enough by the protests. Now the former president is adding insult to injury.

Wolfe letter adds to UM woes with lawmakers, but impact on budget unclear

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 2:00 pm

JEFFERSON CITY — In former University of Missouri President Tim Wolfe’s letter seeking help securing a satisfactory severance package, he wrote that the Tiger football team’s strike was “the equivalent of throwing gasoline on a small fire.”

For many lawmakers, Wolfe’s letter was just as inflammatory, reigniting a portion of the turmoil at MU that had subsided to warm embers.

“There’s a lot of disappointment in the letter that former President Tim Wolfe sent,” state Rep. Caleb Jones, R-Columbia, said Thursday. “Everyone is now realizing that Mizzou deserves better, and the legislature expects better.”

In his letter, Wolfe asks supporters to contact the Board of Curators to give him a job “and the compensation that is appropriate.” Lawmakers are going to look very skeptically at any severance package and the exit deals given to former Athletic Director Mike Alden, former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and former Missouri football Coach Gary Pinkel, Jones said.

“The University of Missouri isn’t Goldman Sachs,” Jones said. “The taxpayers’ dollars shouldn’t be used for golden parachutes, and we aren’t Wall Street.”
MU’s budget is under intense scrutiny, and many legislative leaders have said the way it is spending money needs to be justified. A bill requiring annual audits by the state auditor was heard in a Senate committee this week, and legislators have filed bills to control faculty teaching waivers and other aspects of university operations.

Gov. Jay Nixon proposed a 6 percent increase in base funding for state colleges and universities, but the problems in the UM System have placed its share — and perhaps some current funding — at jeopardy. Wolfe’s letter suggests the entire university appropriation of more than $450 million could be in danger. That’s not going to happen, said House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Flanigan, R-Carthage.

“Don’t take them to zero. That’s stupid,” he said. “There is a lot of sentiment to say, ‘Hey, what are you guys doing?’ But you can’t take them to zero — that’s crazy.”

The letter, Flanigan said, “certainly indicates there is a problem at the University of Missouri, and it certainly indicates there is a problem with administration.”

State Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, said he doesn’t have enough information to know whether Wolfe was factual in his description of any particular event. Issues at the university need to be addressed in a positive way, Rowden said.

“Mizzou doesn’t need blind allegiance, it needs leaders to step up,” he said. “It can’t be personal, and it can’t be retaliatory, and we need to focus on the issues.”

Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, saw a copy of the letter Tuesday morning, he said. It will not divert his attention from working to convince his colleagues that the university needs support and is an asset to the state’s economy.

Webber and Rep. Kip Kendrick are seeking a $10 million appropriation for the MU Research Reactor for additional lab and classroom space. The money might help generate a new local industry for radioactive medicines, he said.

“I am going to work hard on doing that this year,” Webber said. “I am going to do that whether administrators write letters or not.”

Kendrick called the letter “a distraction” and said he is working on legislation to help students with debt to shift the conversation about higher education.

“The way that I am viewing the letter is just another side to this story,” Kendrick said. “There are many different sides.”

House Higher Education Committee Chairman Steve Cookson, R-Poplar Bluff, said he could not verify the authenticity of the letter and would not address the particulars. He called on Nixon, Attorney General Chris Koster, state leaders and UM System officials “to resolve this unfortunate situation.”
His committee will focus on legislation to improve transparency at state colleges and universities, he said.

“The more that we can know and understand, the better decisions that we can make or conclusions that we can come to,” Cookson said.

House Speaker Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, said it is too early to know whether or how much the university will receive of Nixon’s proposed increase or if the school’s base budget will be cut.

“We want it to continue to be the strong flagship … institution of the state,” Richardson said. “In terms of trying to figure out what the budget impact is at this point, there are a lot of things that are factoring into that.”

**THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Faculty Leaders Urge Mizzou Board to Use ‘Existing Procedures’ if Investigating Professor

A day after the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri suspended a professor who has been under fire for trying to block student journalists from covering a protest on the Columbia campus last fall, a panel of faculty leaders at the flagship called on the board to use “existing procedures” if it believed a formal investigation was warranted.

The board’s chair announced the suspension of the professor, Melissa A. Click, in a brief statement issued on Wednesday night at the conclusion of a special board meeting. The statement said the board had asked the university’s general counsel to “immediately conduct an investigation,” or hire an outside counsel to do so, “and promptly report back to the board so it may determine whether additional discipline is appropriate.”

On Thursday the Executive Committee of the MU Faculty Council on University Policy approved a statement that elaborates on the flagship’s procedures for filing and investigating charges of unethical or irresponsible conduct by faculty members. The committee said that, to the best of its knowledge, no such complaints had been filed against Ms. Click, who is seen in a widely circulated video shoving a student journalist
and calling for “some muscle” to help bar him from an area on a campus quad where protesters had gathered in November. In the video another university employee and protesters also confront the student journalist.

Some faculty members who had seen the video considered bringing a complaint against Ms. Click, the faculty panel’s statement says, but “decided against doing so because Professor Click issued a heartfelt apology” and because the provost had admonished her for her actions. Others decided against doing so, it says, because they didn’t want to add to the barrage of criticism and “vitriolic attacks” Ms. Click suffered after the video went viral.

But that hesitation may have only made the situation worse, the statement says: “With the benefit of hindsight, it appears that public confidence in the university, its administration, and its faculty would have been bolstered had a charge been filed against Professor Click during the fall.”

The faculty panel urged the board, if it felt an investigation was necessary, to bring a charge against Ms. Click under the flagship’s policy for dealing with such complaints. For the board to suspend Ms. Click, the statement says, and conduct its own investigation, “without using the existing procedures that the board has approved, undermines confidence in the current leadership of the university.”

Chicago Tribune

Column: Missouri prof went too far. The prosecutor has, too.

By Eric Zorn

The behavior of University of Missouri assistant professor Melissa Click on Nov. 9 was disgraceful.

You’ve probably seen the viral video. It was shot by student journalist Mark Schierbecker, who was covering a campus protest over the administration’s response to alleged incidents of racism,
a protest being closely watched by the national media because it also involved a boycott by the Mizzou football team.

The video, shot from Schierbecker's perspective, shows him slipping inside a perimeter established by students on a university lawn, approaching Click and identifying himself as a member of the media.

"You need to get out! You need to get out!" she says, moving the lens of his camera away from her face with her hand. After he refuses to leave, she loudly calls for "some muscle" to help her eject him from the area, then mocks his assertion that he has a right to occupy a public space.

Click's lack of respect for or apparent understanding of Schierbecker's press freedoms under the First Amendment was not only disgraceful given her position in the school's communications department, but it was also embarrassing for the university and counterproductive for the protesters, whose tactics, not their complaints, quickly became the focus of the national media narrative.

But it wasn't criminal.

At least that's what we all assumed as the weeks went by without a peep from prosecutors about Schierbecker's bleat that he'd been the victim of an assault.

Monday, however, 2 1/2 months after the fact, Columbia, Mo., city prosecutor Steve Richey charged Click with misdemeanor assault in the third degree.

It's a minor offense as such things go — the maximum penalty is 15 days in jail and a $300 fine — but overkill nevertheless given that the students who came to Click's aid barely touched Schierbecker as they led him outside the protective ring of students with locked arms, where he continued filming.

Technically, yes, you can make the argument that Click broke the law.

Under Missouri law, "A person commits the crime of assault in the third degree if … the person purposely places another person in apprehension of immediate physical injury or … the person knowingly causes physical contact with another person knowing the other person will regard the contact as offensive or provocative."

It would be an assault, in other words, if the diminutive Click's call for "muscle" was an appeal for a group of protesters to come and administer a beating or some other kind of physical abuse to the student with the video camera. But was it? Given the nonviolent nature of the protests to that point and the subsequent gentle bum's rush Schierbecker received — students were calling him "bro" as they tried to block his camera with their hands — that contention is dubious.

It would also be an assault if Click's efforts to get Schierbecker's camera out of her face, which seems to have included touching his hand judging from the images, was deliberately "offensive or provocative."
But were they? A fair viewing of the video suggests that, while Click was acting like a presumptuous ninny, gently pushing aside the camera was more a defensive than aggressive act.

Click later apologized to Schierbecker for her "actions, language, strategies and behavior," but he did not accept the apology because, he said, "she did not seem entirely sincere."

Laws against assault are meant to protect us from hostile, threatening, intimidating behavior that falls just short of physical violence, known as battery. They're not meant to protect us from every person who looks at us cross-eyed or warns us to get a move on or else.

They are certainly not meant to be used as bludgeons in political fights.

Click's criminal offense, if any, was so minor that, in any other context — imagine similar circumstances but instead she was trying to escort a nosy interloper away from an outdoor wedding — police wouldn't even file a report. The "victim" would be told to get over himself.

Here, the charges landed well after the fact and in the middle of a controversy over Click's professional fate that has split the campus and the state legislature, where Republicans are calling for her ouster.

And they resulted, Wednesday, in an emergency meeting of the university's board of curators that concluded with the announcement that Click "is suspended pending further investigation."

As uncomfortable as I am with the idea of a communications department assistant professor creating controversy by displaying an arrogant disregard for the freedom of the press, I'm even less comfortable with the idea of a prosecutor using the cold letter of the law to play a role in resolving that controversy.

Fire Melissa Click? OK. But charge her? Never.

Click

Remaining in the news

By Henry J. Waters III

Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 2:00 pm
Not many of us become so famous only a single name is needed. Sadly, in these parts Melissa Click is known readily by only her last name.

“Fire Click.” “Support Click.” We all know what the argument is.

**On Monday the story took a new turn as Columbia City Prosecutor Steve Richey filed a minor assault charge against the University of Missouri assistant professor.** The case had been brought to him by MU police after Click tried to evict a student photographer from the Carnahan Quadrangle, where the student protest group Concerned Student 1950 was demonstrating. Even though they were on public property, the students had called for a “safe zone” where they wouldn’t be bothered by journalists or other outside observers. Click and Janna Basler, associate director of MU’s Department of Student Life, tried to help enforce the protesters’ demand. Basler drifted more or less out of the spotlight and eventually back into her job. Click earned infamy by physically confronting the photographers and calling for “muscle” to help remove them.

Early on I wrote Click’s affront was stupid but not a “hanging offense.” Now the question is whether it deserves up to 15 days in jail and a $300 fine as a Class C misdemeanor assault.

Prosecutor Richey waited two months after police sent their evidence. Richey won’t comment on his motivation, but I reckon this is the sort of case that would have been disregarded had Click not performed her antics in front of a video camera. She had made foolish comments, but no “muscle” had been exerted against the photographers. The question will be whether her verbal “assault” qualifies under the law.

After all, Click had no armed minions under her control. Her irresponsible comment about “muscle” is not the same as an actual physical assault, is it? Maybe the judicial system will decide “something” must be done because of the political furor surrounding the case. A suspended sentence or probation or some such expression of disapproval without official “muscle” comes to mind.

As Click’s legal turmoil chugs along, she has been suspended with pay and her job status is in limbo. In the curious way the university decides such things, “limbo” describes the usual process for deciding promotion and tenure. Mitchell McKinney, chairman of the MU Department of Communication where Click works, said the process is complicated. The provost, deans and committees weigh in on faculty reviews regarding hiring, firing, promotion and tenure. He said Click does not have tenure but is being reviewed for promotion. Even in moving at what constitutes breakneck speed on campus, the process resembles limbo for anyone used to more decisive actions in private settings.

So Click’s job status is likely to remain in limbo for a while. The campus process could last beyond the coming election season, during which politicians will pontificate. Republican gubernatorial candidate Catherine Hanaway praised Richey’s filing and called for “the Board of Curators to do the same and discharge Ms. Click for her outrageous actions.” Hanaway used the required campaign word “outrageous,” likely to be parroted by others before the issue goes
away. That the UM Board of Curators has no business making individual personnel decisions at the campus level has no place in the political yelling.

In a minor way, Richey’s dilemma reminds me of the pickle prosecutors and grand juries have faced in episodes involving police brutality against black suspects. With competing hordes standing by, law enforcement can’t win. If the court issues a slap on her wrist, Click’s attackers won’t be satisfied. If it puts her in jail, it will be fairly accused of answering the mob instead of a call for justice.

Meanwhile, interim Chancellor Hank Foley and others on campus call for a resolution of Click’s employment status by university processes, not outsiders. Of course, he is right.

**UM curators suspend MU Professor Melissa Click pending investigation**

By Megan Favignano and Rudi Keller

Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 2:00 pm

**University of Missouri Professor Melissa Click is suspended pending further investigation. Board of Curators Chairwoman Pam Henrickson said Wednesday.**

“The Board of Curators directs the general counsel or outside counsel selected by the general counsel to immediately conduct an investigation and to collaborate with the city attorney and promptly report back to the board so the board may determine whether additional discipline is appropriate,” Henrickson said.

UM System spokesman John Fougere said in an email that Click was suspended with pay. Fougere was not sure who will teach Click’s courses during her suspension.

Click, an assistant professor in MU’s Department of Communication, on Monday was charged with misdemeanor assault for her confrontation with student journalists at a demonstration on campus Nov. 9 after former UM System President Tim Wolfe resigned. She pleaded not guilty to the charge, a Class C misdemeanor punishable by as much as 15 days in jail and a $300 fine upon conviction.

Footage of Click’s confrontation with Mark Schierbecker, a student videographer, and Tim Tai, an MU student and photojournalist, during the demonstration went viral. Click can be heard on
video ordering Schierbecker and Tai to leave the area and saying, “Who wants to help me get this reporter out of here? I need some muscle over here!”

Henrickson announced Click’s suspension after the curators met in closed session for nearly four hours Wednesday afternoon and evening. Henrickson declined to take questions from reporters. The curators’ vote to suspend Click was unanimous, Fougere said.

Interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley said Monday that Click would keep her job at least through the tenure review process, which she is about halfway through. The university will tell everyone who applied for promotion and tenure this year of their decisions by Aug. 1.

Sam Cohen, an English professor at MU, said he and many of his colleagues were upset by the board’s decision.

“Regardless of what you think of what Professor Click did, this is a much bigger issue. We have a policy on this,” Cohen said. “Curators are not supposed to be involved in individual personnel decisions.”

Cohen said the policies exist to protect the university from outside interference. Curators, he said, made the decision under pressure from state legislators.

Ben Trachtenberg, chairman of the MU Faculty Council, said the curators should have given campus administrators a chance to handle the situation.

“You want to use procedures in the hard cases, the controversial cases so people don’t think you’re changing the rules on them,” Trachtenberg said.

More than 100 Republican state lawmakers called for Click’s firing in a letter to university officials. In response, more than 100 faculty members released a letter in support of Click.

State Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, was among the lawmakers calling for Click to be fired. He said the board’s action did not change his opinion on the matter.

“At least it is a start that there is a recognition that there’s a problem, but it doesn’t really address the problem,” Schaefer said. “It is leave with pay. It is just a vacation.”

State Rep. Kip Kendrick, D-Columbia, said he trusts the curators to handle personnel matters without input from him or colleagues in the General Assembly.

“I don’t think it will lessen the hostility in this building among Republicans,” he said. “If anything, it may shift the focus to the next topic. I don’t know what that is.”

Rep. Caleb Rowden, R-Columbia, likened the Click situation to a cloud hanging over the university. Rowden said he signed the letter calling for Click’s firing because he generally believes that’s what the university should do.
“I don’t think we should be making large, broad decisions based on Melissa Click’s employment and I never did,” he said. “I don’t think that needs to be a significant part of the dialogue when it comes to appropriations or anything like that.”

House Speaker Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, said he does not think the General Assembly will view MU any more favorably if the university takes action regarding Click.

“That situation is emblematic of what we see as some of the problems but not necessarily the problem,” he said. “What we want to see is solid leadership out of the institution and moving the university in a better direction than frankly it has been over the last several months.”

Cohen said the curators’ decision decreased morale on campus the same day Foley delivered his State of the University address. Foley’s speech focused on moving forward from events that happened on campus this fall and using what happened to strengthen the university.

“This is a very bad situation for the national reputation of the university,” Cohen said. “We look like a national joke.”

Cohen said he hopes the American Association of University Professors becomes involved. On Twitter, Cohen encouraged others to tweet bylaws and AAUP statements with the hashtag “#IStandWithMelissaClick.”

**Faculty council: If you're going to investigate Melissa Click, charge her**

COLUMBIA - COLUMBIA - The Executive Committee of the MU Faculty Council on University Policy issued a statement Thursday following the UM Board of Curators' suspension of Assistant Professor Melissa Click.

The statement said if the curators believe Click's conduct should be investigated, they should charge her under the university's bylaws. The faculty council said suspending Click and
conducting an investigation without charging her "undermines confidence in the current leadership of the University."

According to the statement, a person or group of people may file a "faculty irresponsibility charge" against a faculty member for "breaches of professional ethics or commission of irresponsible acts."

The faculty council did not believe anyone had filed a charge against Click.

A video showing Click blocking a student journalist from taking pictures of the Concerned Student 1950 protests went viral in November. The faculty council said after watching the video, some faculty members considered bringing a charge against Click; however, they did not do so because she issued a heartfelt apology, received death and rape threats, was reprimanded by the provost, and had suffered enough.

"Knowing that a colleague was suffering vicious harassment may well have discouraged faculty from adding another problem to Professor Click’s fall semester," the statement read.

The statement continued, "With the benefit of hindsight, however, it appears that public confidence in the University, its administration, and its faculty would have been bolstered had a charge been filed... during the fall."

Click faces a criminal charge of third-degree assault for the incident in November.

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Students protest group defends suspended teacher, criticizes UM system

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The student group that led protests on Mizzou's campus in November said an MU professor served as an "ally who supported historically marginalized students."

Concerned Student 1950 released a letter via Twitter Thursday night on the Um Board of Curators decision the night before. The Board of Curators suspended Dr. Melissa Click Wednesday night after the Columbia city prosecutor charged her with third-degree assault for an altercation with a journalist at the November 9 protest on Carnahan Quad. Board chairwoman Pam Henrickson said Wednesday that the UM System would conduct its own investigation into the issue to decide if any further punishment was warranted.

The letter said Dr. Click became "the victim of social and political violence" after the November 9 video of her calling for "muscle" to remove MU student Mark Schierbecker from the protest space on campus that Concerned Student 1950 staged in November. The group also criticized the UM System for focusing on her, rather than addressing the demands they set forth for a more racially-equal campus and administration.

"The University of Missouri System is devoting time to tarnishing Click's career instead of dismantling the oppressive RACIST social system it perpetuates," the letter said, emphasis its own.

The ouster of then-UM System President Tim Wolfe was one of the group's chief demands, followed by a more inclusive process of selecting the next president between students, staff and faculty of diverse backgrounds. UM System spokesman John Fougere said the board would finalize the process of selecting the new president at its February 4 and 5 meetings.
Chamber, MU, KOMU partner for gubernatorial debates

Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

The Columbia Chamber of Commerce, University of Missouri and TV station KOMU will partner on a series of gubernatorial debates in Columbia.

The first debate, scheduled to last 90 minutes, starts at 7 p.m. March 17 at the Missouri Theatre, 203 S. Ninth St., the chamber said in a news release. Republican candidates John Brunner, Eric Greitens, Catherine Hanaway and Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder will take part. The event will be free and open to the public, but attendees will need tickets, the release said. KOMU 8 will air the debate, moderated by anchors Brittany Pieper and Jim Riek, live.

The second debate will feature Democrats and Republicans and will take place in September or October, though the details still are being ironed out, the release said.

GOP pressure grows on UM System

JEFFERSON CITY — The president of the Missouri Senate on Thursday called the legislature's relationship with the University of Missouri System "terrible."

"It's getting worse," Senate President Ron Richard, R-Joplin, said. "Every time they show up, it gets worse. I suggest they don't show up."
Republican lawmakers have harshly criticized the UM System's handling of the controversy surrounding communications professor Melissa Click. Click was caught on video confronting a student journalist during the Concerned Student 1950 protests on Nov. 9. In the video, Click repeatedly orders the reporter to leave the Carnahan Quadrangle, at one point grabbing at his camera before demanding "muscle" to help get rid of him. Click faced no disciplinary action until she was charged with assault on Monday. On Wednesday night, the UM System Board of Curators suspended her pending further investigation.

Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, is sponsoring a proposal to require the state auditor to review the UM System on an annual basis. He said getting the state auditor involved would provide a level of independence not present in the system's internal or external audits. Schmitt called Click's continued employment "ridiculous" but said he wants to turn attention away from Click and toward potential systematic issues.

"There's been some confidence that people have lost in the university system," he said. "And I think this audit could help restore some of that. We could find out, maybe everything is being done exactly the right way, but maybe it's not, and if it's not, then we can all work together to try to move together with reform."

GOP leaders have suggested the UM System might face retaliatory budget cuts this year. In December, Richard was quoted as saying that funding was "going to take a haircut." That would run counter to the wishes of Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon, who has proposed giving the four-campus system an additional $26.8 million in performance-based funding. Meanwhile, in the House, La Monte Republican Dean Dohrman has proposed requiring all college students in Missouri to take a course on freedom of speech. Dohrman has cited the Click controversy as part of the reason he filed the legislation. That bill got a public hearing on Tuesday.

A UM System spokesman said the university does not comment on pending legislation.

**MISSOURIAN**

**GOP candidates for governor will debate in March at Missouri Theatre**

CATHERTINE WENDLANDT, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **Republican candidates for governor** — John Brunner, Eric Greitens, **former Missouri House speaker Catherine Hanaway** and Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder — will attend a debate hosted by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, MU and KOMU on March 17 at the Missouri Theatre.
Chamber president Matt McCormick said questions and debate topics for the 90-minute event are still being developed, but his organization is interested in asking the candidates about the business climate in Missouri.

Since there is currently only one Democratic candidate for governor, Attorney General Chris Koster, there will not be a Democratic debate, McCormick said.

According to a news release, a second debate in either September or October will feature the Democratic and Republican party nominees.

Independent Lester Turilli Jr. is also running for governor.

The last day to file for candidacy is March 29 for Democrats and Republicans and Aug. 1 for third-party candidates.

Tickets for the debate will be available at the Missouri Theatre box office beginning next week.

**THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**After Protests, U. of Missouri Raises Minimum Graduate Stipends**

The University of Missouri will raise the minimum stipend for graduate students, to $15,000, in July, the interim chancellor, Henry C. (Hank) Foley, announced on Wednesday. The Columbia Daily Tribune reports that the university plans a further increase next year, to $18,000, in the stipend for graduate students with 20-hour assistantships.

The measure comes months after graduate students were incensed by the university’s sudden announcement that, in light of a provision in the Affordable Care Act, it would no longer subsidize their health insurance. Missouri reversed the
decision, apologized, and formed a task force, which recommended raising graduate stipends.

“We want to make sure that we’re treating you in a way you deserve to be treated,” Mr. Foley told graduate students during his State of the University address on Wednesday. “It is a matter of values and priorities.”

Concerns about the treatment of graduate students was one of many issues that fueled discontent with R. Bowen Loftin, the chancellor, who stepped down after protests over racism rocked the campus in November.

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri plans to raise its minimum stipend for some graduate doctoral students on July 1.

Chancellor Hank Foley said Wednesday during his State of the University address that the stipend for those with 20-hour assistantships will go to $15,000 by July 1 and increase to $18,000 next year.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports (http://bit.ly/20uC5Hk) an increase in stipends was one of several recommendations made by a graduate student experience task force earlier this month. The task force had suggested the increase be implemented by the 2019-20 school year.

Foley said the university must stay competitive with compensation for its doctoral graduate students.

Foley said during his speech, addressing graduate students, "We want to make sure that we’re treating you in a way you deserve to be treated."

The Graduate Professional Council issued a statement after Foley's announcement praising the interim chancellor for implementing the task force's recommendation.

"Achievements such as this one are the result of graduate and professional students who step outside of their classrooms and labs to advocate for themselves, faculty who stand by our side, and administrators who listen to our needs and act," the group said.
Stipends were part of a larger discussion about graduate student benefits that has sparked an effort to form a graduate student union.

The Forum on Graduate Rights, which is collecting signatures to hold a vote to unionize, formed in August after the university announced that it could no longer subsidize health insurance premiums for graduate students. The university later reversed its decision.

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**MU to increase minimum stipend for doctoral students**

By Megan Favignano

Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 2:00 pm

*The University of Missouri will raise its minimum stipend for graduate doctoral students with 20-hour assistantships by about $3,000 to $15,000 on July 1, interim Chancellor Hank Foley said Wednesday.*

Foley revealed the change during his State of the University address, which the chancellor makes annually. Foley said MU plans to raise stipends again in 2017 to $18,000 for doctoral students with 20-hour assistantships.

“We want to make sure that we’re treating you in a way you deserve to be treated,” Foley said during his speech, addressing graduate students. “It is a matter of values and priorities. How we treat these important researchers and educators says more about our real values than any rhetoric.”

Graduate students all wearing red filled several rows of the crowd gathered in Memorial Student Union for Foley’s speech. They applauded after Foley announced the changes to minimum stipends. Graduate assistants receive stipends and benefits in exchange for their work teaching and conducting research for the university.

Foley became interim chancellor in November after former MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned. Loftin’s resignation came after two faculty departments and nine deans sent curators letters criticizing his leadership.
“I’m often asked if I would like to do this job, and the answer is I would,” he said. “I love Mizzou, and I would love to do this job, but ... that’s for you all to decide.”

An increase in stipends was one of several recommendations included in a report released in early January by a graduate student experience task force. The task force, however, suggested MU make the increase by the 2019-20 school year.

The Graduate Professional Council issued a statement after Foley’s announcement praising the interim chancellor for implementing the task force’s recommendation in half the time suggested.

The Forum on Graduate Rights, a graduate advocacy group on campus, formed in August after MU told graduate students it could no longer subsidize health insurance premiums because of an IRS interpretation of the Affordable Care Act. The university later reversed that decision after faculty and student backlash. Foley said earlier this month that MU would continue to subsidize health insurance premiums for graduate assistants next school year.

Eric Scott, a doctoral student with the Forum on Graduate Rights, said graduate students continue to collect the signatures they need to hold a vote to unionize. He said a contract negotiated by a union might help ensure graduate students receive adequate stipend increases in the future.

“The fact that we need a $6,000 bump in the minimum stipend to get up to that competitive level — that’s because for like 20 years, we haven’t had good cost-of-living increases,” Scott said.

Members of MU Faculty Council have expressed concerns that low stipends, changes in tuition waivers and long-term health insurance uncertainty might negatively affect MU’s recruitment of graduate students.

Graduate student applications were down 19 percent compared to 2015, according to an internal MU memo dated Jan. 4. University officials said the improving economy likely led to fewer graduate student applications.

MU Faculty Council Chairman Ben Trachtenberg said he was pleased with Foley’s announcement regarding graduate student stipend increases.

“If we want to attract and retain the best graduate students, we have to pay them a reasonable amount,” he said.

MU also is making diversity, inclusion and social justice a priority, Foley said. The university held its first diversity-education class for new students last week. Foley said the challenge will be determining how to best scale up the class so it can be used to teach all new undergraduates, graduate students, staff and faculty.

A group of students calling themselves Concerned Student 1950 led demonstrations this fall over concerns of racism on campus. The group’s list of demands included diversity and inclusion curriculum and a more diverse faculty and student body.
For alumni, Foley said he understands it might have been painful to see their alma matter appear on the front page of national media in a negative light as it did this fall.

“I know full well that what has happened here at Mizzou has shaken you,” Foley said to alumni. “I can assure you, we will recover.”

The state is the university’s largest benefactor, he said, adding that MU does not take the state funding for granted. MU is unpopular with some lawmakers, Foley said, but he believes MU can prove the university is a good investment.

Foley also said MU would invest more in safety on campus by increasing the number of MU police officers by 25 percent and the number of dispatchers by 50 percent over the next three years.

Forum on Graduate Rights reacts to stipend increase


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The Forum on Graduate Rights released a statement in response to the State of the University announcement.

**University of Missouri Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said Wednesday the graduate stipend will rise $3,000 on July 1 to $15,000.**

The Forum on Graduate Rights said it is "pleased by the announcement and believes this to be a step toward advancing the well-being of graduate student employees at MU."

Eric Scott with the organization says he wants the regular increases in a contract so future graduate students won't have to deal with this same issue.
Mizzou student body president, vice president resign

Columbia — The Missouri Students Association confirms the group’s elected president and vice president resigned during an MSA Senate meeting Wednesday night.

A statement released by the group says "Deliberations occurred between MSA and several members of the student body expressed their concerns with the leadership of Haden Gomez [President] and Christopher Hanner [Vice President]."

Gomez resigned and Hanner took over responsibilities as president. Hanner appointed Payton Head as the vice president, and Hanner subsequently resigned, according to MSA.

The statement says Payton Head has taken over as interim president and a special election will be held at a date that is yet to be determined.

MU's newly elected student leaders resign

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Missouri Students Association President Haden Gomez and Vice President Christopher Hanner resigned Wednesday, the organization said in a news release.
Payton Head, whose term as president just ended, is now interim president, and Bill Vega is interim vice president. A special election will be held to select new leaders, according to the release. The date of the special election has not been determined.

Gomez and Hanner won November’s election with 2,590 of the 5,620 votes cast. Before Gomez and Hanner resigned, MU’s Legion of Black Collegians circulated a statement on Twitter that said the organization was disappointed in Gomez and Hanner’s actions during their election campaign. The statement described Gomez and Hanner’s campaign as dishonest.

The statement also said “those involved with this campaign” had no interest in addressing racism on campus.

Gomez and Hanner did not reply to emails seeking comment by the Tribune’s deadline. Kathryn Cua, MSA’s communication director, did not respond to a message seeking comment before deadline.

How MSA Senate toppled their president-elect

Senators began planning Gomez’s removal during a Operations Committee meeting Tuesday night.

The Missouri Students Association full Senate planned to end with a different president than it began with on Wednesday evening. Instead, Payton Head has remained in office as interim MSA president after Haden Gomez and Chris Hanner resigned.

As of 10 p.m. on Jan. 27, Haden Gomez and Chris Hanner are no longer the MSA president- and vice president-elect.

Natalie Edelstein, former campaign manager and assistant director of the Missouri Students Association Department of Student Communications, came forward Jan. 25 with screenshots she took from the Gomez/Hanner campaign group message. The screenshots showed campaign staff discussing the payment of Pocket Points in exchange for their endorsement, mass text messages Edelstein sent and the Concerned Student 1950 protests.

After reviewing the screenshots, senators began to plan to stop the inauguration of Gomez and Hanner Tuesday night in an extended Operations Committee meeting. After hours of meetings, Gomez resigned Wednesday night during the full Senate meeting.
“At the end of the day, I am a person, and I wish that would’ve been respected more than it was,” he said during his resignation.

After the announcement, Senate swore Hanner in as president. Hanner then appointed Head as his vice president before resigning, moving Head up to be interim president.

Head said he was hesitant to assume the role of interim president.

“I was just getting used to the lifestyle of not being MSA president, because it’s something that’s been my whole life,” he said. “It’s thrown me into the national and international spotlight, invaded a lot of my privacy and it’s where I’ve had some of my lowest lows. At the same time, through this organization, I’ve had some of my highest highs.”

Head said he wanted to stay with the association to make sure the transition ran smoothly.

Head appointed former Budget Chairman Bill Vega, who had to first resign as chairman, as his vice president. Vega said he also took the interim position hesitantly.

“I was going to say no,” he said. “I wanted Payton to appoint someone else, but after tonight, I realized that we need some sort of change in the association. I feel like that’s one step that I can take personally.”

Leading up to Gomez’s resignation, senators struggled to find a way to remove Gomez within the established procedures of the senate bylaws and constitution. The constitution contains strict rules for when elections can be held. Because it cannot be altered without a popular referendum of students, senators did not initially think they could hold a special election.

Early Wednesday morning, the Operations Committee drafted resolutions that would remove Gomez and Hanner from office through a variety of methods. One of the resolutions would have nullified the election, and another would have struck the Gomez/Hanner slate from the ballot and appointed the Ejaz/Parrie slate in their place. A third would also nullify the election, but included a provision regarding the appointment of the next president and vice president.

During that Operations meeting, senators discussed other ideas ranging from the the consultation of the Student Court to a resolution that would assert that January was November and the election wasn’t over. A great deal of discussion centered around the ethics of appointing a president, especially given several senators’ involvement in the Ejaz/Parrie campaign.

At 5 p.m. later that day, senators held another emergency operations committee meeting to determine what actions to take with the resolutions. At the beginning, senators agreed that they needed to convert the resolutions to acts because resolutions express group opinions, not legislative actions.

Aregbe explained that invalidating election results could be unconstitutional because the election results represented an outcome of a student referendum in the same way that the constitution
does. Because of that, he felt it would be inappropriate to override the results with an act, which would not be voted on by the students.

He also expressed concerns with senators’ involvement in the Ejaz/Parrie and Gomez/Hanner campaigns, which he thought could contribute to personal biases.

“It is clear that a lot of people in this room supported one candidate or another, and we have to keep that in mind,” he said. “Three slates ran; for some reason we’re having a conversation about two slates. We should be having a conversation about three.”

Senators discussed the role of the Student Court. Some students, including Campus and Community Relations Chairman Alex Higginbotham, wanted Senate to allow the court to rule on the election.

However, senators who had been in communications with the court said it would not be able to meet to rule on the election until Jan. 29.

A few minutes before 6 p.m., when full Senate was scheduled to begin, the committee came to a vote and decided to submit legislation instead of waiting for Student Court to make a ruling. Committee members passed the piece of legislation that only nullified the election.

During senate, Head didn’t comment directly on the discussion.

“You can all check Twitter for the executive report,” he said. “I think that you all have work tonight. I hope you will act accordingly.”

Aregbe restated his positions from earlier and admonished students who used Concerned Student 1950 as a platform point.

"Don't be about CS1950 today if you weren't about it yesterday,” he said. “Don't use it as a soccer ball.”

During the meeting, several students spoke, including students who had protested with Concerned Student 1950. Students spoke on their experiences with Gomez and Hanner as well as their opinions of their character. The speeches sometimes became heated or personal.

“I hope you look back, and you feel real shitty about it," former MSA vice presidential candidate Heather Parrie told him.

When the legislation, Act 55-23, came to the floor, some senators proposed an amendment that would prevent Gomez and Hanner from running in the proposed special election.

At that point, Gomez and Hanner had re-entered the chamber. Hanner told Senate that the amendment would be unnecessary because he would not be running in another election. The amendment failed unanimously.
Vega proposed an amendment that would appoint Head as interim in the 30-day wait for the special election to commence. The amendment passed.

After the passage of that amendment, Academic Affairs Chairwoman Tori Schafer gave a speech in negation to the act, saying that it would be more sound procedurally to inaugurate Gomez and Hanner and then impeach them.

“Don’t let this organization be more corrupt than it already is,” Schafer said.

The senate went into another 10-minute recess. At the end of recess, Senate motioned to return to the announcements portion of the agenda, and then Gomez resigned.

Head and Vega’s interim positions will last until new leaders are elected in the special election. However, per the constitution, the special election must be announced and voted on 30 days in advance. No such vote was taken during the session.

**MSA President Payton Head steps back into office**

Head and Vega will serve in office while the student body selects its next MSA president and vice president, who will be chosen through a special election process.

Missouri Students Association President Payton Head has been called on once more to carry the MU student body through a difficult transition. Last semester, Head was an active supporter of Concerned Student 1950 and worked diligently with students and administration to improve the campus climate.

After evidence of a compromised election was brought to light by screenshots of a GroupMe conversation between the Gomez/Hanner campaign staff, which prompted the resignation of MSA President-elect Haden Gomez, the student government was seemingly left with no leadership.

Gomez stepped down at Wednesday’s full Senate meeting. Earlier that night, former Budget Chair Bill Vega asked Head if he would consider remaining in office temporarily.

“I’m getting ready to graduate obviously,” Head said. “But at the same time I care about MSA, I care about the students and I want us to be in a much better place. I don’t want to leave MSA in a place where it’s not productive and not serving the student body like it should be.”
Head accepted, despite his concerns over responsibilities in his personal life, and was confirmed immediately following adjournment. Vega was confirmed as interim MSA vice president in an Operations committee meeting shortly after.

Head and Vega will serve for 30 days, per Article X Paragraph C of the MSA constitution, while the student body selects its next MSA president and vice president, who will be chosen through a special election process.

“All kinds of things would happen and this was the neatest, easiest way to do it where we weren’t breaking any by-laws,” former MSA Vice Presidential candidate Heather Parrie said in an interview after Senate. “We didn’t waste people’s time, but we did what we needed to do, and that’s what’s most important.”

Vega’s term as vice president overlaps with the annual MSA budgetary process. The MSA budget, which is an estimated $1.6 million of MU student fees, is allocated to MU departments and auxiliaries every spring semester.

“I was going to say no,” he said in an interview after Senate. “I wanted Payton to appoint someone else, but after tonight I realized that we need some sort of change in the association, and I feel like that’s one step that I can take personally that should shock the senate a little bit and get some new blood and new momentum.”

Head said he also hopes to do some internal re-vamping within MSA over the next 30-day interim period. He believes the election season proves there are some issues that need to be addressed within the organization.

“Today, we saw students come in with different testimonials and they were able to speak on their experience here at Mizzou and their perception of MSA,” he said. “I think it was really eye opening for senators and people involved in MSA to see the fact that you’re sitting up in these offices all day long and you say that you’re doing student advocacy and you’re doing student work but you don’t know the student body. So it’s extremely important for us to keep that in mind moving forward.”

Maty Mauk dismissed by Missouri football for recent rule violations

Missouri dismissed quarterback Maty Mauk from its football team Thursday, three days after a video surfaced of someone closely resembling Mauk snorting a line of white powder off the table.
The school suspended Mauk on Monday after the video was posted on Twitter, the third time in four months he had been suspended. **Mauk’s father, Mike, told the Kansas City Star that the video was two years old — an unnamed teammate said the same thing to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch — “but its release prompted the MU athletic department to investigate his recent activity,” the Star’s Tod Palmer writes.** Odom had reinstated Mauk to the team after he was promoted to head coach in December, with the understanding that there would be a zero-tolerance policy moving forward, according to Palmer.

Mauk was initially suspended for four games on Sept. 29 because he had failed a drug test, according to the Star’s sources. He was reinstated on Oct. 25 but was suspended again — this time for the rest of the season — after he got into a confrontation at a bar in Columbia, Mo.

The Tigers went 17-5 with Mauk as their starting quarterback, including an 11-3 mark when he was the team’s full-time starter in 2014.

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**Maty Mauk dismissed from Missouri football team**

Junior quarterback had been suspended following release of video

It was Mauk’s third suspension in four months

According to a source, Mauk was on a zero-tolerance policy

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kestar.com

**Quarterback Maty Mauk is no longer a Missouri Tiger. He was dismissed from the MU football team Thursday after meeting with new coach Barry Odom.**

“\[I\] met with Maty Mauk this morning and informed him of my decision to permanently dismiss him from the football program,” Odom said in a release from the athletic department that announced Mauk’s dismissal. “When I met with Maty back in December, I wanted to give him an opportunity for a fresh
start, but I also made it very clear what our expectations would be moving forward. After gathering information and speaking with a number of individuals this week, it is clear Maty has failed to live up to those expectations by violating team rules in recent weeks.

“As for the video appearing on social media this week, it is concerning, but we believe it is from a long time ago. However, Maty’s failure to live up to expectations in recent weeks was the reason for this decision.

“We believe it is in his best interest to focus on his personal life and his academic career at this time. We remain committed to helping him work through the challenges and earn his degree. Our hope is that he will grow from this and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors.”

Mauk — a 6-foot, 200-pound redshirt junior from Kenton, Ohio — was suspended indefinitely Monday for the third time in four months after the school announced it was investigating a video on social media. The nine-second video in question was posted that night on Twitter by a user who mentioned Mauk’s by name. In the video, Mauk is seen snorting white powder off a coffee table. (The video has since been removed from Twitter.)

Mauk’s father, Mike, told The Star that the video is 2 years old, but its release prompted the MU athletic department to investigate Maty Mauk’s recent activity.

Maty Mauk posted a photo of a hand-written letter on Twitter on Thursday afternoon. It read: “It is with a heavy heart that I come to term with the fact I will be not a part of this great University of Missouri Athletic organization. There are no words to describe my disappointment. While I cannot provide you with specifics about my future, there is one thing I am very sure of — How incredibly thankful I am for the overwhelming support I have felt from the Athletic Department, the coaches, academics, my teammates, and most of all from the fans. I will and cannot tell you how much this support has meant to me and how thankful I am. Please know that my intent was never to bring any harm to the University or football program. I will continue to make myself the best I can be. I wish the Mizzou football program the best.”

After being hired in December, Odom reinstated Mauk, who was suspended twice for drug- or alcohol-related violations of team rules last season, with the
understanding there would be zero-tolerance policy moving forward, a source familiar with the situation told The Star.

Shortly after the video surfaced Monday night, Tigers athletic director Mack Rhoades and Odom issued a joint statement that read: “We are currently gathering information regarding the video in question. This is an issue we take very seriously and one that will not be tolerated within our program. We will take appropriate action once we have all the facts. In the interim, Maty Mauk has been indefinitely suspended from the Mizzou football program.”

After gathering facts and meeting with Mauk, he was dismissed from the team Thursday. It’s unclear how or if the decision will affect his standing as a student, but Mauk is believed to be on track to graduate in the spring. He has one year of eligibility remaining and could play right away this fall at another FBS program as a graduate transfer or by transferring to a lower-division school.

Mauk was suspended for four games Sept. 29 after an unspecified violation of team rules. Multiple sources confirmed to The Star that the initial suspension stemmed from a failed drug test.

He was reinstated from that suspension on Oct. 25, one day after a 10-3 loss at Vanderbilt as Missouri entered its bye week. Days later, former Tigers coach Gary Pinkel suspended Mauk for the remainder of the season after he was involved in a confrontation at a Columbia bar only hours after apologizing to his teammates for the initial suspension.

Despite Mauk’s suspension for the final eight games of the season, Odom, who was hired Dec. 3 to replace Pinkel, reinstated Mauk.

Mauk’s father, Springfield Glendale High School coach Mike Mauk, was diagnosed last summer with colorectal cancer and underwent surgery one day before MU announced the first suspension.

Mauk, who started four games as a redshirt freshman in 2013 when starter James Franklin suffered a separated shoulder, went 17-5 as Missouri’s starting quarterback.

He posted a 3-1 record in 2013, helping keep the Tigers on track for the first of back-to-back SEC East titles after Franklin’s injury, a month fans dubbed “Mauktober.”
Mauk led Missouri to an 11-3 record as the full-time starter in 2014, but he was subject to increasing criticism for ineffective play. Nonetheless, Mauk guided the Tigers back to the SEC Championship Game that season, which was capped with a win against Minnesota in the Citrus Bowl. Missouri started 3-1 under Mauk last season, opening conference play with a 21-13 loss at Kentucky in what turned out to be Mauk’s final game at Missouri.

Mauk came to Columbia after setting national high school records for passing yards (18,932), touchdown passes (219), completions (1,353) and total offense (22,681). Mauk, a Rivals three-star recruit, chose Missouri over scholarship offers from Notre Dame, Michigan, Vanderbilt and Illinois among others.

He leaves having completed 346 of 657 passes — 52.7 percent — for 4,373 yards with 42 touchdowns and 19 interceptions. Mauk ranks fourth in Missouri history in touchdowns thrown, sixth in quarterback rating, eighth in passing yards and ninth in total offense with 5,120 yards.

Mauk’s dismissal leaves Missouri with only two scholarship quarterbacks on the roster, Drew Lock and Marvin Zanders.

Lock, a Lee’s Summit graduate who will be a sophomore next fall, started the final eight games last season. He appeared in all 12 games, completing 129 of 263 passes — 49 percent — for 1,332 with four touchdowns and eight interceptions.

Zanders was the co-backup quarterback for those two months along with Eddie Printz, who has decided to transfer after graduating in May. Zanders’ only appearance came in a Wildcat goal-line package Nov. 5 against Mississippi State. He’s yet to attempt a pass in college.

Micah Wilson from Lincoln Christian in Tulsa changed his commitment from Boise State to Missouri last week and is expected to sign Wednesday on national signing day.

**Mauk booted from Mizzou football team**

*Suspended three times in the past four months, quarterback Maty Mauk is no longer part of the Missouri football team, the school announced Thursday.*
Mauk met with Tigers coach Barry Odom on Thursday in Columbia to discuss the senior’s future with the program, after which Odom released the following statement:

“I met with Maty Mauk this morning and informed him of my decision to permanently dismiss him from the football program. When I met with Maty back in December, I wanted to give him an opportunity for a fresh start, but I also made it very clear what our expectations would be moving forward. After gathering information and speaking with a number of individuals this week, it is clear Maty has failed to live up to those expectations by violating team rules in recent weeks.”

On Monday, Odom and athletics director Mack Rhoades suspended Mauk indefinitely after a video surfaced online showing Mauk appearing to snort a line of white powder. Former Missouri coach Gary Pinkel suspended Mauk twice during the 2015 regular season — the first time after a failed drug test — but Mauk was reinstated in December when Odom took over as head coach.

The 9-second video posted on Twitter was taken two years ago and the quarterback has since addressed his drug problem, a Mizzou teammate told the Post-Dispatch earlier this week. In recent days, several players have taken to social media to defend Mauk, implying that he stopped using drugs since rejoining the team last month.

“As for the video appearing on social media this week, it is concerning, but we believe it is from a long time ago,” Odom said. “However, Maty’s failure to live up to expectations in recent weeks was the reason for this decision.

“We believe it is in his best interest to focus on his personal life and his academic career at this time. We remain committed to helping him work through the challenges and earn his degree. Our hope is that he will grow from this and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors.”

In his statement Odom didn’t disclose which team rules Mauk broke in recent weeks. Multiple sources confirmed that Mauk’s initial suspension in September was related to a failed drug test. The team suspected he’d been using drugs and administered the test, leading to his suspension announced Sept. 29. The suspension was lifted four weeks later, but Pinkel then suspended Mauk for the rest of the season on Nov. 1 after he was spotted having a dispute outside a downtown Columbia bar. Mauk’s teammate told the Post-Dispatch earlier this week that Mauk has “been really turning things around” since the end of the season and “has been clean for a while.”

On Thursday afternoon, Mauk posted a handwritten letter on his Twitter account (@M_MAUK_7) that read:

“It is with a heavy heart that I come to term (sic) with the fact that I will not be a part of this great University of Missouri Athletic organization. There are no words to describe my disappointment. While I cannot provide you with specifics about my future, there is one thing that I am very sure of —
how incredibly thankful I am for the overwhelming (sic) support I have felt from the Athletic Department, the coaches, academics, my teammates, and most of all from the fans. I will and cannot tell you how much this support has meant to me and how thankful I am. Please know that my intent was never to bring any harm to the University or football program. I will continue to make myself the best I can be. I wish the Mizzou football program the best. (Signed, Maty Mauk)”

Mauk, 17-5 as Mizzou’s starting quarterback since 2013, has one remaining year of college eligibility. He could transfer immediately to a Football Championship Subdivision school or a lower-level program and play this fall or earn his undergraduate degree at Mizzou in May and enroll at a Football Bowl Subdivision school as a graduate transfer.

Mauk was unavailable for further comment, and his father Mike Mauk did not return a message from the Post-Dispatch.

In 32 career games at Mizzou, Mauk passed for 4,373 yards, which ranks ninth in school history, and threw 42 passing touchdowns, which stands fourth all-time at MU. After redshirting his freshman year, the Kenton, Ohio, native went 3-1 as MU’s starter in 2013 when he helped keep the Tigers in contention for their first SEC East Division title. Mauk guided Mizzou to an 11-3 record in 2014 and another East Division title. Missouri was 3-1 when Pinkel suspended Mauk the first time last fall, having just lost to Kentucky on Sept. 26, Mauk’s final game for the Tigers. Two years earlier, his career just starting to climb, Mauk tied the team record with five touchdown passes on the same field in Lexington.

The Tigers return just two scholarship quarterbacks for spring practices: Drew Lock, who last season started all eight games as a freshman after Mauk was suspended, and Marvin Zanders, a redshirt sophomore this fall. Eddie Printz, who would be a redshirt junior this fall, has decided to transfer after he graduates in May. The Tigers have a verbal commitment from one high school quarterback, Micah Wilson from Tulsa, Okla. He’s expected to sign his national letter of intent on Wednesday.
Maty Mauk permanently dismissed from Mizzou football

COLUMBIA, Mo. — In a statement issued Thursday, University of Missouri Coach Barry Odom announced his decision to dismiss Maty Mauk from the program permanently.

Coach Odom said he met with Mauk Thursday morning, and informed him of his decision.

"When I met with Maty back in December, I wanted to give him an opportunity for a fresh start, but I also made it very clear what our expectations would be moving forward," Odom said in the statement. "After gathering information and speaking with a number of individuals this week, it is clear Maty has failed to live up to those expectations by violating team rules in recent weeks."

Mauk had been suspended from the team for a third time earlier this week, after a video surfaced online Monday night, showing a person who appeared to be Mauk snorting a white powder.

Mauk started four games for Missouri in 2015. Two of the suspensions cost him the final eight games of the season, but he was reinstated to the program in December.

Coach Odom also addressed the video in his statement, saying:

"As for the video appearing on social media this week, it is concerning, but we believe it is from a long time ago. However, Maty's failure to live up to expectations in recent weeks was the reason for this decision."

Coach Odom said they believe it is in Mauk's best interest to "focus on his personal life and his academic career at this time".

"We remain committed to helping him work through the challenges and earn his degree. Our hope is that he will grow from this and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

Mauk posted his own statement Thursday afternoon.

Mizzou is left with two scholarship quarterbacks on their current roster, Drew Lock and Marvin Zanders.

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI
Maty Mauk dismissed from MU football program

By David Morrison

Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Maty Mauk’s Missouri career is over.

The Tigers’ former starting quarterback has been dismissed from the football program after his third suspension in four months, Coach Barry Odom announced Thursday.

“When I met with Maty back in December, I wanted to give him an opportunity for a fresh start, but I also made it very clear what our expectations would be moving forward,” Odom said in a release. “After gathering information and speaking with a number of individuals this week, it is clear Maty has failed to live up to those expectations by violating team rules in recent weeks.”

Mauk earned his third indefinite suspension since September on Monday, when a nine-second video surfaced online of a man alleged to be Mauk snorting a white powder. Odom and Athletic Director Mack Rhoades suspended the quarterback, who is heading into his senior season, while they looked into the circumstances surrounding the video.

Odom, though, said Mauk’s dismissal stemmed not from the video but from actions the quarterback took since Odom reinstated him to the team in December.

Mauk was first suspended for an unspecified violation of team rules Sept. 29, the Tuesday following Missouri’s loss at Kentucky in the fourth game of the season. A source indicated the first suspension resulted from a failed drug test.

He missed four games before then-Coach Gary Pinkel reinstated Mauk on Oct. 25, the Sunday of the Tigers’ bye week.

Mauk was suspended again, this time for the rest of the season, Nov. 1 for an unspecified violation of team rules. The second suspension came from a Wednesday night incident that week in which an employee at the FieldHouse bar in Columbia said Mauk got into an altercation with another man.

The incident came just hours after Mauk had apologized to his coaches and teammates about the behavior that led to the first suspension.

After Odom took over Dec. 3, he met with Mauk. On Dec. 19, Mauk’s father, Mike, told the Tribune that his son had been reinstated to the team and was looking forward to going through spring football.
Mauk’s second reinstatement came with a zero-tolerance policy for his behavior. Odom and Rhoades received every indication that Mauk was making better choices since his second suspension.

Through their investigation of the video, though, they found otherwise. Odom came off the recruiting trail Thursday morning to meet with Mauk then headed back out recruiting with signing day less than a week away.

Mauk was a record-setting quarterback in his father’s offense at Kenton, Ohio, High School, setting national marks with 18,932 passing yards and 219 touchdown passes.

His Missouri career began auspiciously, as well, as he stepped in for injured starter James Franklin and led the Tigers to a 3-1 record during their 12-2, SEC East championship season in 2013 as a redshirt freshman.

Mauk threw for 2,648 yards and 25 touchdowns the next season in helping lead Missouri to an 11-3 mark and another division title. He threw for 654 yards and six touchdowns against four interceptions over four games last fall before being suspended the rest of the year.

Mauk always had a strong arm, active legs and a knack for making unexpected plays, but his erratic performance on the field mirrored his behavior off of it. He was 17-5 as a starter at Missouri and threw for 4,373 career yards — ninth on the Tigers’ all-time list — and 42 touchdowns to go along with 747 rushing yards and four scores, but he also completed only 52.7 percent of his passes.

He would have games like he did against Toledo in 2014, when he tied the school record with six touchdowns accounted for, alongside games like the one he had against Georgia a little more than a month later, when he turned the ball over five times.

Mauk was also dealing with family issues last fall, after his father was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Mike, the head football coach at Glendale High School in Springfield, continues to undergo treatment.

A number of Mauk’s teammates — including fellow class of 2012 signees Harold Brantley, John Gibson and Michael Scherer — offered their support for him through social media after the video hit the web Monday night. They indicated the video was old and that Mauk had changed his ways.

“To penalize somebody twice for the mistakes that’s already been learned from would be detrimental,” Gibson wrote on Twitter. “It’ll work itself out bro.”

Mauk is a senior at Missouri, according to the online student directory. If he does not graduate before the start of the fall semester and wants to transfer, he would have to play his final year of eligibility at a school at the FCS level or lower.
Mauk tweeted out a picture of a handwritten statement Thursday afternoon, nearly three hours after he learned of his dismissal.

It read:

"It is with a heavy heart that I come to term with the fact that I will not be a part of this great University of Missouri Athletic organization. There are no words to describe my disappointment. While I cannot provide you with specifics about my future, there is one thing that I am very sure of -- How incredibly thankful I am for the overwhelming support I have felt from the Athletic Department, the coaches, academics, my teammates, and most of all from the fans. I will and cannot tell you how much this support has meant to me and how thankful I am. Please know that my intent was never to bring any harm to the University or football program. I will continue to make myself the best I can be. I wish the Mizzou Football program the best."

His dismissal leaves Missouri with only two scholarship quarterbacks on the roster heading into spring football — sophomores Drew Lock and Marvin Zanders. The Tigers have a commitment from quarterback Micah Wilson from Lincoln Christian School in Tulsa, Okla., for this year’s class and are targeting more as signing day approaches.

Mauk issues statement after getting dismissed from Mizzou Football


COLUMBIA, Mo - Updated (2:19 p.m.): Maty Mauk released a handwritten note on Twitter. In the note, Mauk writes, "There are no words to describe my disappointment. While I cannot provide you specifics about my future, there is one thing that I am very sure of- How incredibly thankful I am for the overwhelming support I have felt from the Athletics Department, the coaches, academics, my teammates and most of all from my fans."

To read Mauk's full statement, click the picture in the "related content" section of this article.

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COLUMBIA, Mo--Mizzou quarterback Maty Mauk has been dismissed, Mizzou Football coach Barry Odom announced Thursday afternoon.
Mauk had been suspended indefinitely after a video surfaced of an individual, who resembled Mauk, sniffing a white powder off a table. Odom said, in a statement, the team believes the video was from a "long time ago." Odom adds Mauk's dismissal is for "violating team rules in recent weeks."

The junior had been suspended three times in a span of four months. After the video surfaced on Monday, several of Mauk's teammates rushed to his defense. Linebacker Michael Scherer tweeted, "yes the video is very old, yes Maty has been doing everything he can to be a better person." Defensive tackle Harold Brantley tweeted, "If you speak ill of Matty, don't speak to me."

Mauk issued a statement on his Twitter account just before 2:00 Thursday. Mauk said in part "It is with a heavy heart I come to term with the fact that I will not be apart of this great University of Missouri athletic organization. Mauk also said "Please now my intent was never to bring any harm to the University of football program."

Mauk, who is finishing his redshirt junior year, will have one year of eligibility remaining. If he graduates before the start of this upcoming season, he can play immediately for another school.

Below is a statement from Barry Odom, courtesy of Mizzou Athletics.

“I met with Maty Mauk this morning and informed him of my decision to permanently dismiss him from the football program. When I met with Maty back in December, I wanted to give him an opportunity for a fresh start, but I also made it very clear what our expectations would be moving forward. After gathering information and speaking with a number of individuals this week, it is clear Maty has failed to live up to those expectations by violating team rules in recent weeks.

As for the video appearing on social media this week, it is concerning, but we believe it is from a long time ago. However, Maty’s failure to live up to expectations in recent weeks was the reason for this decision.

We believe it is in his best interest to focus on his personal life and his academic career at this time. We remain committed to helping him work through the challenges and earn his degree. Our hope is that he will grow from this and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors.”

Mauk is the second quarterback to leave the team in 48 hours. Eddie Printz, who backed up both Mauk and freshman quarterback Drew Lock in his three seasons with the team, will transfer according to a Mizzou spokesperson.

The native of Kenton, OH came to Mizzou in 2012. He redshirted his freshman year and made his first collegiate start in 2013 against Florida. He also replaced an injured James Franklin in the 41-26 win over Georgia the previous week. Mauk helped his team win back-to-back SEC East titles in 2013 and 2014.
In 2015, Mauk came in as the starting quarterback. Mauk led Mizzou to a 3-1 record, but was suspended on September 29 for a violation of team rules. Mauk was reinstated by then-football coach Gary Pinkel on October 26 before he was suspended on November 1. Mauk had an altercation outside of Willie's Fieldhouse in downtown Columbia the night of his initial reinstatement.

Barry Odom, who was hired to replace Pinkel, confirmed Mauk was reinstated on December 23. That led to this week's events, when Mauk was suspended and later dismissed.

Maty Mauk removed from football team

By Peter Baugh

Quarterback Maty Mauk’s career at Mizzou is officially over.

Coach Barry Odom released a statement announcing the decision. In the statement, he said that Mauk, a junior, failed to live up to the program’s expectations. The announcement came after he was reinstated in December.

“After gathering information and speaking with a number of individuals this week, it is clear Maty has failed to live up to those expectations by violating team rules in recent weeks,” Odom said in his statement.

A video surfaced late Monday night of Mauk engaging in drug related activities. Players stated on Twitter that the video is not recent. Though Odom also said he believed the video was old, he said that, since Mauk did not live up to team expectations in recent weeks, he would be dismissed from the team.

Mauk was suspended in late September for a violation of team rules. He was briefly reinstated during the season but was suspended again for another team violation.

Mauk led the Tigers to Southeastern Conference Eastern Division titles in 2013 and 2014.
Senator calls for auditor to do 'a deep dive' into University of Missouri finances

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 2:00 pm

JEFFERSON CITY — The state auditor should review the University of Missouri’s finances yearly to assure taxpayers that their annual investment of almost $500 million is being spent with care, Sen. Eric Schmitt said Wednesday during a hearing of the Senate Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee.

The bill sponsored by Schmitt, R-Glendale and a candidate for state treasurer, is one of several targeting operations and leadership at UM filed in response to last year’s dramatic events that included leadership changes for the system and the Columbia campus.

“Given the events over the course of the last year or so, we as the General Assembly owe it to the taxpayers to have the state auditor do a deep dive and look at the finances of the University of Missouri System,” Schmitt said.

Neither the bill nor the hearing was a direct response to the scathing confidential email letter sent last week by former UM System President Tim Wolfe to university supporters. Schmitt said the audit should focus on whether operations are meeting public expectations.

Lawmakers have heard reports that some university departments are operating at a deficit and owe money used to cover costs to the general treasury, Schmitt said. The auditor should review those finances, he said. In response to a question from Sen. Mike Cunningham, D-Rogersville, about faculty teaching loads, Schmitt said that issue should be scrutinized as well.

“We have come to a place now with the University of Missouri System to have a complete accounting,” Schmitt said.

The auditor’s office estimated the bill would cost $535,000 annually to implement and require eight new employees.

No one testified against the bill, but the university sent its top financial official, Vice President Brian Burnett, and internal auditing chief, Ryan Rapp, to explain how $2.2 million is spent annually to audit university accounts.

Rapp reports directly to the Board of Curators, and no official of the university can prevent him from reporting on problems, Burnett said. The university system receives $3 billion in revenue annually, operates four campuses with 77,000 students, runs a health care system and has a presence in every county in the state through the MU Extension, he said.
An annual audit by an independent accounting firm costs the university $800,000 yearly, Burnett said. It covers compliance with federal law and NCAA rules governing athletic finances, he said.

“Their stamp of approval is critical for the people who hold our debt,” Burnett said.

The university is willing to open its books for the audit, he said, and suggested the bill should go further.

“We welcome Sen. Schmitt raising this issue, but what we are also going to say is if this is going to be an audit of the University of Missouri, because it is a very big piece of the higher education system, perhaps other schools should be included.”

The auditor’s office currently has the power to audit state colleges and universities but does not do so on a regular schedule. The committee did not vote on the bill.

The Kansas City Star

JANUARY 28, 2016 8:42 AM

MU’s Concerned Student 1950 to get NAACP award

A predominantly black student group gets award for being agents of change

Student protests led to the resignation of UM System President

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

mdwilliams@kcstar.com

The student group that led the race-related protests that toppled University of Missouri leaders in November is being honored by the NAACP with the Chairman’s Award at the organization’s 47th Image Awards next month.

Concerned Student 1950, a predominantly black group orchestrated a series of protests against what they said is systemic oppression of minority groups on the Columbia campus. The protests called for the university to improve the racial climate on campus, to be more inclusive of minority students and to hire more African American faculty.
The protests, including a student hunger strike and a boycott by the Mizzou football players, drew national attention and led to the resignation of UM System President Tim Wolfe and the reassignment of MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

The demonstrations by Concern Student 1950 inspired a national movement among students on college campuses across the county.

NAACP’s Chairman Award is given to individuals and organizations who were agents of change. Image Awards will be televised on Feb. 5.

MISSOURIAN

Concerned Student 1950 to receive NAACP award

KEVIN GRAELE, TOM HELLAUER, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The student protest group that led race-related demonstrations on the MU campus in November will be honored at the national NAACP Image Awards next week.

Concerned Student 1950, mostly made up of black MU students, organized campus protests culminating in the resignations of former UM System President Tim Wolfe and former MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin. The group is one of eight individuals or groups receiving the award.

The NAACP contacted group leaders via email to inform them, Concerned Student 1950 member and MU junior Andrea Fulgiam said.

"It was nothing that any of us expected," she said. "It's a great opportunity to get our message on a national scale."

The group will send one representative to receive the Chairman Award at the NAACP’s 47th Image Awards on Feb. 5 in Pasadena, California. Fulgiam said the representative had been
determined, but she declined to give the person's name because of threats made against the group.

Leaders of the group said they have continued to fight against systemic racial oppression on the MU campus. The group's goals include creating a more inclusive campus environment for minority students and an increase in minority faculty. Their November protests included a hunger strike and a boycott by Missouri football players.

“IT IS A RARE PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO PRESENT THE NAACP CHAIRMAN’S 2016 AWARD TO AN OUTSTANDING GROUP OF TRAILBLAZING LEADERS ALL UNDER THE AGE OF 50 WHO HAVE GIVEN VOICE AND VISION TO THE MANTRA THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER,” ROSLYN M. BROCK, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE NAACP NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SAID IN A NEWS RELEASE.

Concerned Student 1950 "STOOD UP TO INSTITUTIONAL APATHY AND RACIAL HOSTILITY ON THE CAMPUS," THE NEWS RELEASE SAID.

MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: Concerned Student 1950: MU and UM curators are scapegoating Melissa Click

TOM HELLAUER, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **Student activist group Concerned Student 1950 accused MU and the UM System of scapegoating MU assistant communications professor Melissa Click for defending student protesters and of ignoring calls to rectify racial injustice on campus.**

A letter containing the charges was tweeted out Thursday.
The UM System Board of Curators announced Wednesday that it had suspended Click, who called for “some muscle” as she tried to remove journalists from Mel Carnahan Quadrangle during Nov. 9 protests led by Concerned Student 1950.

The suspension came two days after City Prosecutor Steve Richey filed a misdemeanor assault charge against Click in connection with the Nov. 9 events.

In the statement, Concerned Student 1950 wrote that instead of addressing the group's demands — hiring more faculty and health professionals, recruiting and retaining more black students and working together with students to make decisions such as electing a new system president — MU and the UM System are tarnishing Click's reputation because she supported black students.

"The problem in this situation is not what Click did on November 9, 2015. The problem is what and who she stood for, marginalized students, specifically BLACK STUDENTS!" the statement reads.

The statement also compares Click to two white people, Jonathan Daniels and Viola Gregg Liuzzo, who supported the civil rights movement in the 1960s and were murdered by white supremacists.

"One would think that society has learned from its evil past. However, those who wish to perpetuate oppression would rather utilize power and influence to label Click as a 'criminal' instead of dismantling white supremacist patriarchal capitalism within the University of Missouri system," the statement reads.

Andrea Fulgiam, an original member of Concerned Student 1950, said Click was "just being protective. I don't feel like she did anything wrong." She added, "I'm just praying and hoping that nothing but good comes out of this situation."

In the Board of Curators statement Wednesday, Board Chair Pam Henrickson called for system general counsel Steve Owens to conduct an investigation of Click's behavior, "collaborate with the city attorney" and report back to the board.
The MU Faculty Council issued a statement Thursday urging the curators to place any investigation of Click's actions under Interim Chancellor Hank Foley's supervision.

"Suspending Professor Click and conducting its own investigation to determine whether additional discipline is appropriate, without using the existing procedures that the Board has approved, undermines confidence in the current leadership of the University," the statement read.

"The UM System is committed to involving all of our student groups on our four campuses as we look for solutions to the issues that challenge us, and have been developing mechanisms to ensure that student voices are heard," UM System spokesman John Fougere said in an email.

He cited the creation of a system-wide diversity, equity and inclusion task force, having inclusion, diversity and equity officers at each of the four system campuses and getting student input in the search for the first-ever UM System chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer as steps taken to achieve goals set by the curators in November.

He added that future plans call for having campus-level task forces that will "include the voices of students while providing input to the UM System-level task force."

**Concerned Student 1950 responds to Melissa Click's suspension**

COLUMBIA - The Concerned Student 1950 protest group weighed in on the suspension of University of Missouri Assistant Professor Melissa Click.
"It is unfortunate that Melissa Click has become the victim of social and political violence," the statement on Twitter said.

The protest group called Click a "white woman, professor and ally who supported historically marginalized students at the University of Missouri during a time when students were exposing the institution for preserving racism."

The statement from the group said Click is not the problem; instead, the problem is breaking down systemic oppression at the UM-system level.

"The University of Missouri System is devoting time to tarnishing Click's career instead of dismantling the oppressive RACIST social system it perpetuates," the group's statement read.

The statement continued with, "The problem in this situation is not what Click did on November 9, 2015. The problem is what and who she stood for, marginalized students, specifically BLACK STUDENTS!"

Regarding Click's recent third-degree assault charge, the statement said, "Those who wish to perpetuate oppression would rather utilize power and influence to label Click as a 'criminal' instead of dismantling white supremacist patriarchal capitalism within the University of Missouri system."

MU plans to hire more police officers, dispatchers

TOM HELLAUER, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The MU Police Department plans to hire more sworn officers and radio dispatchers over the next three years, MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced Wednesday in his State of the University address.

It will come out to an additional 10 officers and three dispatchers, MU Police Department Maj. Brian Weimer said. He said he didn't know the estimated cost of hiring the new personnel.

"Over the previous years, student population, along with faculty, staff and visitors have increased, while police numbers have stayed nearly the same," Weimer said.
The officers will be used primarily to patrol the MU campus but will be able to assist other units such as crime prevention and investigation, Weimer said.

Weimer reiterated student safety as the reason behind the decision to hire more police personnel. When asked if recent campus protests and unrest influenced the hirings, Weimer said, "I can't speak to that."

From 2013 to 2015, MU police arrested 853 people for liquor law violations, 487 for driving under the influence and 470 for marijuana possession, according to crime statistics from the Missouri State Highway Patrol's statistical analysis center.

The next most common crime was larceny, with 150 instances. Four were arrested for rape.

**MISSOURIAN**

Bee population suffers with pesticides in the air

EMMA DILTZ, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — A family of chemicals used in common pesticides is killing bees, scientists and conservations told a crowd of about 100 people Thursday at a pollination symposium in the Bond Life Sciences Center at MU.

Scott Hoffman Black, executive director of the Xerces Society for Insect Conservation, said disease and habitat loss have played a part in the decline of the bee population in recent years, but pesticides containing neonicotinoids are making things even worse.

Pesticides that contain neonicotinoids are absorbed into the plant's vascular system, making the plant itself toxic to insects, according to an entomology study by Pennsylvania State University and the Xerces Society. The pesticides are used on crops and for at-home use and have been linked to deaths of bees, especially in the past decade, Hoffman Black said.
“Before 2006, we saw a lot of annual losses, from 15 to 22 percent in a year,” said Hoffman Black, referring to commercial bee losses across the U.S. “But after 2006, that went up markedly. Last year, in some places, it was the largest losses that we’ve seen yet, at 40 percent of honeybees for some commercial beekeepers.”

Not all of the losses are attributed to the pesticides, Hoffman Black said, but the declines became steeper after the pesticides were approved for use in the 1990s.

Because of the harmful effects the pesticides have on bees, the Xerces Society is working to educate the public on the chemicals and are pushing for warning labels on home products so people know if the chemicals are harmful to pollinators, according to its website.

A list compiled by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation provides the names of products consumers can buy in stores that contain neonicotinoids.

Hoffman Black said that regulators didn’t foresee the harm that the products would cause bees.

“These pesticides can be in the pollen and nectar, and bees and other pollinators visit the pollen in that nectar,” he said.

Bees, as well as other pollinators, contribute to about 35 percent of worldwide crop production, according to previous Missourian reporting. Without bees, about 85 percent of flowery plants, some of which contribute to the diets and habitat of wildlife, wouldn’t get pollinated.

Mike Arduser, native bee expert, added that birds such as the goldfinch rely on bees for pollinated plants they use for food and shelter.

Pesticides that degrade rapidly pose less harm to insects, but Hoffman Black said the chemicals that are in neonicotinoids can cause harm for years. He cited a study of a crabtree that tested positive six years after its first application.

“We need to think about how we’re using them and where they can be used safely,” he said.
Clayton Lee, vice president of the Missouri State Beekeepers Association, said he thinks conditions are improving, at least in his hives.

“I have eight hives, and a strong one has about 40,000 to 50,000 bees,” he said. “The main thing I’ve found is that communication really improves the situation.”

Lee said he lives next to a vineyard that Japanese beetles feast on, and the same insecticides used to kill the beetles can also kill bees. But he said he keeps in touch with the vineyard owner, which gives him a chance to protect his bees from the chemicals before his neighbor sprays the grape vines.

He said it’s important that people stay educated because bees affect everyone.

“I like to think of bees as a barometer,” Lee said. “If the bees aren’t doing well, we need to take a look at where we’re at in order to determine what else needs to be done to help the population.”

Lawmakers consider bills to allow concealed weapons on campuses

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 2:00 pm

JEFFERSON CITY — Students, staff and visitors would be allowed to carry concealed weapons onto college campuses under two bills heard Wednesday in a Senate committee, but opponents cautioned that drinking, theft and logistical problems make the proposals dangerous.

Sen. Brian Munzlinger, R-Williamstown, and Sen. Bob Dixon, R-Springfield, are sponsoring the bills that were before the Senate Transportation, Infrastructure and Public Safety Committee. Munzlinger’s bill would allow the current ban on concealed weapons to remain in place at any school that can show it provides armed security and weapons screening at every public entrance.
to campus buildings. Dixon’s measure would repeal the carve-out in current law that prohibits carrying concealed weapons on college campuses.

“It seems when you go on a college campus, you are giving up your Second Amendment rights,” Munzlinger said. “Why should our Second Amendment rights be trampled?”

People should be able to carry their firearms on college campuses in case of attack, such as the killing spree April 16, 2007, at Virginia Tech, Munzlinger said.

Sen. Maria Chappelle-Nadal, D-University City, questioned whether concealed weapons would have made Missouri campuses safer last year when two men were arrested after racist death threats were posted on social media. Mothers with students who were among the Concerned Student 1950 protesters called her worried for their safety, she said.

Hunter Park of Rolla, a student at Missouri University of Science and Technology, faces felony charges in Boone County for allegedly posting “I’m going to stand my ground and shoot every black person I see” on Yik Yak.

Conner B. Stottlemyre of Blue Springs will be sentenced Feb. 20 for making a terrorist threat against Northwest Missouri State University.

Park is accused of making a threat a day after Concerned Student 1950 protests over racial issues at the university’s Columbia campus resulted in the resignation of UM System President Tim Wolfe.

“Should I have encouraged those mothers to have their children to carry guns to protect themselves?” Chappelle-Nadal asked.

Munzlinger replied that only students who had been through the training necessary to obtain a concealed weapon permit would be allowed to carry on campus under his bill.

“Are we trying to create the wild, wild West or what?” she replied.

Student representatives who testified were split on the idea.

**Philip Rexing, a junior on the Rolla campus, said he was testifying in support of the bills on behalf of the Missouri Federation of College Republicans and the Rolla chapter of Associated Students of the University of Missouri.** A survey that included 1,000 of the 9,000 students in Rolla found 75 percent support for concealed weapons on campus, he said.

He cautioned the committee to be skeptical of ASUM representatives who would testify later because they opposed the bill but had not surveyed students. “They will be misrepresenting their student populations and misleading this committee,” Rexing said.
The executive director of ASUM, Kaitlin Steen, told the committee that Rexing had no authority to speak for her organization, which sets policy through an executive committee representing all four UM campuses.

She acknowledged that Rolla representatives voted against taking a stand opposing the bill.

Schools oppose the bills because it will be as impossible to police irresponsible and dangerous behavior with guns as it is for other student issues, said Clifford Smart, president of Missouri State University and the Council on Public Higher Education. All 13 state schools oppose the bills, he said.

Dorms don’t have gun safes and students often leave doors open, he said. Suicide is the leading cause of death among college students, he noted, and 10 to 20 percent of students have been diagnosed with a mental illness.

More than 80 percent of campus rapes are related to alcohol consumption, he said. The presence of guns will make all those problems worse, Smart said.

The security required by Munzlinger’s bill would cost $45 million, Smart said.

Missouri lawmakers block higher taxes on some farmland

BY BY ADAM ATON Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. - Missouri lawmakers on Thursday blocked a plan that would have raised taxes on the state's most valuable farmland.

Property taxes on Missouri farms are based on their productive value — the amount of money they're expected to generate from agriculture — instead of market value. The best land is deemed Grade 1, and the worst is Grade 8. The Missouri Tax Commission voted in December to raise productivity values by 5 percent on land in the top four grades for the 2017 and 2018 tax years.
Lawmakers had until early March to pass a resolution blocking the increase. The Senate voted 29-2 on Thursday to reject it, following the House’s 133-24 vote last week. The resolution does not need the governor's signature to take effect.

**About 35 percent of Missouri's 37 million acres of farmland are in the top four grades. Farmers usually grow cotton and rice on that land, while lower grades are typically used for pastures or timber, said Scott Brown, an assistant research professor of agriculture and applied economics at the University of Missouri.**

The tax commission proposes new productive values every two years, though lawmakers have only allowed two adjustments since 1995. Productive value is speculative, Brown said, and policymakers can disagree on how to interpret historical trends. For instance, crops grown on high-grade land have had good returns the last few years, he said, though that could either mean the land is undervalued or that returns will likely decrease in the future.

Sen. Mike Parson, the Republican from Bolivar who handled the resolution in the Senate, said the timing wasn't right for more taxes on farmers.

"Agriculture's a tough arena," he said after the vote, pointing out that the average farmer is getting older, and many families are selling off their farms rather than continuing to grow food.

"It's very difficult for a young man, a young woman to get in that arena anymore just because of the cost of it. But the demands are not going to go away," he said.

During floor debate in the House, some Democrats said the state couldn't afford to divert more money away from schools. K-12 education is underfunded by about $463 million, based on a 2005 law that rewrote the state's school funding formula.

**MISSOURIAN**

Project Homeless Connect offers health care, glasses and clothing to those in need
COLUMBIA — Harold Hull needed help. He couldn't afford to pay for health care, reading glasses or clothing. He doesn't have a home.

"Glasses, health, medical, all," Hull said when asked what he needed.

That's why Hull went to Project Homeless Connect on Thursday morning at the Family Impact Center. The event offered basic goods and services such as food, housing information and dental and medical care.

"We focus on dignity," said Bill Cantin, the city's neighborhood communications coordinator. Cantin also is the secretary of the Columbia–Boone County Basic Needs Coalition, which partners with the city to organize Project Homeless Connect twice a year.

Hull and about 48 other people were without shelter this winter in Boone County, according to a 2015 count by the Missouri Housing Development Commission, and 354 in total were considered homeless.

About 100 people in need of help showed up to Thursday's event, Cantin said.

Volunteers from Boone Hospital Center and MU Health Care administered medical tests such as blood pressure checks and HIV screenings. Cantin said the medical care was especially valuable because some "people haven’t gone to a doctor in years."

Mid-Missouri nonprofit Saving Sight conducted free vision checks and gave information about possible eye diseases.

Hull had his eyes checked, and he picked up a pair of the free reading glasses offered.

In addition to health tests and food, there was another service in high demand.

"Everybody always needs clothes," said Cantin.
Sylvia Sprinkle, the founder of nonprofit Missouri Pay It Forward, said the people could take as many clothes as they wanted.

"Most of these people live out in the tents and live outside, and they’re gonna need them," Sprinkle said.

Hull left the event with a new jacket, his new glasses and a smile on his face.

"I'm thankful," Hull said.

"They are people just like everybody else," Cantin said. "They just need help. I've been lucky. Someone else hasn't been."

"This is a way to give back to them and give them what they need."

UM Curator Yvonne Sparks resigns

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 2:00 pm

**Yvonne Sparks, a University of Missouri curator from St. Louis, resigned Wednesday, citing competing demands on her time.**

Gov. Jay Nixon appointed Sparks to the UM System Board of Curators on Nov. 14, but the Senate had not confirmed her term. Her resignation was effective immediately.

“After careful consideration of the demands of my professional obligations and those required to engage in the work of the Board at the level that I expect of myself, I have concluded that it is not possible to do both well,” Sparks said in a news release.

Sparks is assistant vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis.
She was appointed to represent the First Congressional District for a term ending Jan. 1, 2021. She took the seat previously held by Wayne Goode, who served on the board from July 2009 until January 2015. The seat was left open when Goode’s term ended without a replacement because a Senate committee rejected Mary Nelson during the confirmation process, citing a concern Nixon was appointing too many lawyers.

Board Chairwoman Pamela Henrickson of Jefferson City said in a news release that Sparks brought a valued perspective to the group.

“I regret to hear of her resignation, as I know her experience would have contributed a great deal to the university as a board member,” Henrickson said. “We certainly wish her well in the future.”

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Student charged with rape on MU campus released on bond

COLUMBIA - A man who was charged with rape and burglary on the MU campus posted $50,000 bond, according to court records.

Police said Austin Joseph Campbell, 20, unlawfully entered a woman's room and raped her early in the morning on Jan. 18.

The University of Missouri Police Department arrested Campbell on suspicion of first-degree rape and first-degree burglary.

He was sent to the Boone County Jail on Jan. 20.

Court documents stated Campbell is banned from the MU premises. He was originally being held at $75,000 bond, but his bond was amended Wednesday to $50,000 cash or surety.

Records also stated Campbell's felony review is set for Feb. 24 at 9 a.m.